



## **Thatcher Republican Women's Group**

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer  
Friday, March 5, 2010

**My Fellow Republicans – Thank you for being here today. Thank you for your commitment and the countless hours you put in supporting our Republican principles.**

**I've worked hard all my life, in many ways and places.**

**For 28 years I've had the chance to serve Arizona, to help our State grow.**

**Throughout my career as a trusted public servant – A State Legislator; a State Senator; a Maricopa County Supervisor; your Secretary of State and now as your Governor I have been committed to the principles of less government and more freedom.**

**I have been a consistent truth-teller.**

**When I inherited this office over one year ago, our State was on the brink of fiscal collapse.**

**So, what went wrong?**

**Wrong, is the five high-rolling years before I took office when the system grew government as large as possible.**

**Wrong, is a state budget deficit of nearly five billion dollars across two fiscal years.**

**Wrong, is a federal government whose unfunded mandates and sweetheart deals steal Arizona's freedom and threaten to bankrupt our state.**

**Wrong, is arguing that "the system worked" -  
- when evidence to the contrary is everywhere and obvious.**

**OK, so what's RIGHT?**

**Right, is having the courage to tell the hard truth -- even when it exacts a political cost.**

**Right, is having a proven track record of acting on behalf of others.**

**Right, is self-sacrifice ... commitment to the greater good.**

**Please know, I am working hard to resolve this present crisis.**

**And let me tell you what we've done so far:**

**We've made government more efficient, reducing spending by over one billion dollars.**

**We've streamlined agencies, shrinking the State work force by over ten percent.**

**We're now transferring back to the Federal Government all non-violent criminal aliens currently housed in the Arizona Department of Corrections.**

**We've attracted well over one billion dollars in capital -- and nearly two thousand jobs.**

**Recently, I welcomed Sun Tech holdings to Arizona, where they will build their hundred thousand-square-foot North American headquarters as well as a manufacturing plant creating over one hundred and fifty high paying jobs.**

**The economy has still not recovered, our revenues are still depressed and there is no avoiding the fact that going forward, we must make further, reductions in spending.**

**In short, more state jobs are going to be shed and services are going to be further curtailed, or lost.**

**Let me be clear, in the history of this state no other Governor has cut state government more than I have.**

**As I have stated for over a year, the depth of the problem is so severe that we cannot solve it through cuts alone.**

**The damage done to education, and public safety would be far too great.**

**So, in the short run – to prevent this -- we must raise some additional revenue.**

**So, I fought for – and won -- thanks to the help of courageous members of both parties in the State Senate and the State House – the right of the VOTERS to decide whether to raise the state sales tax by 1 percent over the next three years.**

**I've NEVER voted to raise taxes in my entire career.**

**Not once in 28 years in public service.**

**Not one time!**

**But, during that period, I've learned one thing above all else: Doing the RIGHT thing almost always means doing the HARD thing. That's how I feel about Proposition 100.**

**As hard as it is to do, I will be a “YES” vote come Election Day.**

**I’m voting “YES” because it’s the right thing to do, and I strongly encourage you to vote “YES” as well.**

**If we are to preserve the core functions of the Arizona we all love, then Proposition 100 MUST pass.**

**Prop 100 will keep funding for Arizona’s K-12 education system at reasonable levels, keeping students learning and class sizes manageable.**

**It will help our universities and community colleges.**



**It will go to keep felons locked up and it will go to give Arizona's poorest families the help they desperately need.**

**Without the revenue that a "YES" vote will bring, these programs MUST BE CUT BY MORE THAN ONE BILLION DOLLARS IMMEDIATELY!**

**That's why Prop 100 is the RIGHT thing to do.**

**This is a TEMPORARY tax – it will start on June 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, and come to a dead stop at the end of the day on May 31, 2013.**

**It will get us through until revenues recover, so that education does not bear the brunt of the downturn.**

**Please understand, though, that this isn't a cure-all. Despite the fact we've streamlined state government – there are more reductions to come.**

**We have tax reforms and an aggressive pro-growth job creation program that are ramping up, but still we need Prop 100.**

**So, please vote “YES” on Proposition 100.**

**Over the long run, I support a responsible pro-growth tax reform package that includes tax cuts.**

**However -- we must ensure a revenue base that supports vital functions through this downturn.**

**If we do not act decisively, we will look to the East -- and our Federal Government -- and see our future -- government over-grown -- people over-taxed -- borders over-run -- employers over a barrel -- and freedom ... simply over.**

**Challenges arise to show us what we're made of as women and men. They're tests of our character. Tests of our values.**

**My father died when I was 11.**

**My mother raised two children, opened up a business of her own and never quit.**

**My mother met every challenge that came her way ...**

**I am my mother's daughter.**

**I will never quit.**

**I will never give in.**

**I love this state and I care about the people of Arizona ... enough to always tell you the truth.**

**I am committed to an Arizona revival equal to her spirit -- equal to the promise of her second century.**

**I am committed to a government that is limited in scope but unrestrained in its goodness.**

**That is what is expected of all of us.**

**And, that is exactly what we will do ...  
Together.**

**Thank you, may God bless you and your  
families, and may God bless Arizona.**